

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-14 are presently active in this case.

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 7-8, 11-12 and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Carrow et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,976,821) in view of Spencer (GB 2,288,359) as evidence from Applicant's own disclosure or Strebel (U.S. Patent No. 6,083,434). Claims 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Carrow et al. in view of Spencer as evidence from Applicant's own disclosure or Strebel, further in view of Gilman, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 4,836,963).

Claim 7 is directed to a process for rotomoulding a part including a first layer and a second layer made of a foam polymer and surrounded on one face by the first layer. The claimed process requires several steps, including placing a first quantity of material to make up the first layer in a mold; and rotating the mold to form the first layer and heating the first quantity of material to melt the first quantity of material. The claimed method *then* requires *placing a second quantity of material* to make up the second layer in the mold and restarting rotation of the mold. The heating is interrupted before the second quantity of material reaches a foaming temperature for the second quantity of material, but the mold is kept rotating until *the second quantity of material reaches the foaming temperature* and as long as the second quantity of material remains at or above the foaming temperature, thus forming the second layer.

The rejection is based on the proposition that Carrow et al. disc discloses steps of introducing first and second materials in order to form first and second layers, and points to

Column 3, lines 31-51, column 6, lines 6-58, and column 7, lines 1-17 of that document.<sup>1</sup>

The Office Action acknowledges that Carrow et al. fails to explicitly teach that the second material is a foamable polymer. The Office Action turns to Applicant's own disclosure and to Strebel and concludes that the second material/layer is foamable.<sup>2</sup>

Applicant respectfully disagrees. The Carrow et al. passages relied upon by the Office Action do identify a first step of introducing a first material into a rotational mold, then a second step of introducing a second material into the mold. However, these Carrow et al. passages clearly teach that the *second* material is *not* foamable. For example, at column 6, lines 48-58, Carrow et al. teaches that the *first* material is heated "causing the *formation of bubbles* in said first continuous layer." By contrast, the second material is processed such that "said second continuous layer being at least substantially *free of said bubbles*." Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not find it obvious to modify the Carrow et al. process by making the second material foamable and processing it until it reaches its foaming temperature thereby introducing bubbles into the second material. Such a modification would go against the explicit teachings of Carrow et al. that the second layer be free of bubbles.

The secondary references (Applicant's own disclosure and Strebel) do not make such a modification obvious. These references refer to variants of the Carrow et al. process discussed above in which a first non-foamable material is first introduced, followed by the introduction of the foamable material. Clearly, this is a different process than the Carrow et al. process discussed above and relied upon by the Office Action to reject the claims, in which a first material is introduced and processed to form bubbles in it, followed by the introduction of a second material in which no bubbles are formed.

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<sup>1</sup> Office Action at page 3, lines 1-2.

<sup>2</sup> Office Action at page 3, lines 2-5.

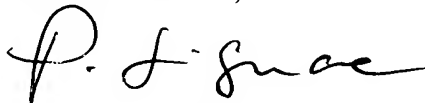
The rejections are further traversed for the reasons already of record and presented in the previously field response, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Consequently, in view of the present response, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 7-14 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number

Respectfully submitted,

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